

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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DPSCS Donates 220 Bales of Hay to Days End Farm horse Rescue

*Six Pre-Release Inmates and Correctional Staff From
DOC's Second Chances Horse Farm Bring Much-Needed Hay For Malnourished Horses*

Towson, MD (May 20, 2010)---The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) today donated 220 bales of hay from its Second Chances Thoroughbred Retirement Horse Farm to the Days End Farm Horse Rescue in Howard County. Days End last week received more than 20 malnourished horses seized from a farm in Western Maryland, and is in desperate need of help.

"We knew right away that we had hay, and when you have close to 100 horses on-site, some of them starving, you need hay," said William Filbert, Warden of the Maryland Division of Correction's Pre-release facilities. The Pre-release system operates one of the few inmate-tended horse farms in the nation, under the sponsorship of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Currently, four horses are tended by six to eight inmates, who learn equine care and have rebuilt Second Chance Farm's barn, fences, and pastures. The farm is on the property of the Central Maryland Correctional Facility in Sykesville.

"This is a perfect opportunity to extend what we already are doing," said DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard. "And that is restorative justice---giving inmates a chance to pay back-- - while helping nonprofits and communities do things they otherwise might not be able to do."

John Rowley, who coordinates DPSCS inmate public works projects for the entire state, met with Days End officials this week, along with Warden Filbert and Conni Swenson, farm manager at DPSCS' Second Chances Farm. The goal is to help Days End with both short- and long-term needs.

"I'm extremely excited to partner in this program," says Days End Farm Manager Erin Ochoa, "and thankful for Secretary Maynard and DPSCS for all they're doing. It means the world to us and our horses."

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.

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